

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A tractor comprising:

front wheels:

rear wheels:

A
a transmission case disposed adjacent to said rear wheels, said transmission case having right and left lateral portions, a front wall and a rear wall;

a rear axle supported by said transmission case;

B
a framework substantially forming a body of said tractor and extending in a fore and aft direction of said tractor, wherein said framework includes a first frame and a second frame, and ^{said} first frame having its rearward end region connected to said left lateral portion of said transmission case, and said second frame having its rearward end region connected to said right lateral portion of said transmission case; and

a rollover protection structure (ROPS) supported by said framework, wherein said ROPS includes right and left legs extending upwardly, and a cross portion connecting said right and left legs, said left leg being connected to said first frame rearwardly of and spaced from said transmission case, and said right leg being connected to said second frame rearwardly of and spaced from said transmission case.

[Please amend claim 2 as follows:]

2. (Twice Amended) A tractor in claim 1, wherein said left leg is supported by said first frame through a left post, and said right leg is supported by said second frame through a right post.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Twice Amended) A tractor as defined in claim 2, wherein a post right connecting region and a post left connecting region are between said framework and respective said right and left posts and are spaced rearwardly from and located adjacent to a transmission case right connecting region and a transmission case left connecting region between said framework and said transmission case, respectively.

Please add the following new claim:

6. (New) A tractor comprising:

front wheels:

rear wheels:

a transmission case disposed adjacent to said rear wheels, said transmission case having right and left lateral portions, a front wall and a rear wall;

a rear axle supported by said transmission case;

a framework substantially forming a body of said tractor and extending in a fore and aft direction of said tractor, wherein said framework includes a first frame and a second frame, and ^{said} first frame having its rearward end region connected to said left lateral portion of said transmission case, and said second frame having its rearward end region connected to said right lateral portion of said transmission case;

a rollover protection structure (ROPS) supported by said framework, wherein said ROPS includes right and left legs extending upwardly, and a cross portion connecting said right and left legs; and

a left post connected to said left leg of said ROPS and said first frame for enabling said first frame to support said left leg, and a right post connected to said right leg of said ROPS and said second frame for enabling said second frame to support said left leg;

wherein a post left connecting region between said first frame and said left post is spaced rearwardly from and located adjacent to a transmission case left connecting region between said first frame and said left lateral portion of said transmission case, and a post right connecting region between said second frame and said right post is spaced rearwardly from and located adjacent to a transmission case right connecting region between said second frame and said right lateral portion of said transmission case.

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[Please add the following new claim:]

7. (New) A tractor as defined in claim 6, wherein horizontal, right and left, mounting seats are provided at one side of respective said right and left posts, said mounting seats having said right and left legs of said ROPS connected thereto, respectively.

[Please add the following new claim:]

8. (New) A tractor as defined in claim 7, wherein said mounting seats and said right and left legs of said ROPS are connected to each other with right and left fenders interposed therebetween, respectively.

a left leg being connected to said first frame rearwardly of and spaced from said transmission case, and said right leg being connected to said second frame rearwardly of and spaced from said transmission case.

[Please add the following new claim:]

9. (New) A tractor comprising:

front wheels;

rear wheels;

a transmission case disposed adjacent to said rear wheels, said transmission

case having right and left lateral portions, a front wall and a rear wall;

a framework substantially forming a body of said tractor, said framework forming a rectangle elongated longitudinally of said tractor in plan view, and including:

a pair of opposed long sides defined by right and left frames extending longitudinally of said tractor;

a first short side adjacent to said front wheels, said first short side being defined by a cross member connecting said right and left frames to each other; and

wherein said transmission case forms a second short side adjacent to said rear wheels, wherein said right and left frames are directly connected to said right and left walls of said transmission case, respectively, by connecting means;

a rear axle supported by said transmission case, wherein said right and left frames extend rearwardly of said rear axle; and

a rollover protection structure supported by said framework.

REMARKS

Please find attached with this Amendment pages titled "Changes To The Claims Shown Using Revision Marks," whereby new text is highlighted with underlining and deleted text is struck out.

Claims 1-5 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 have been amended, while claims 4-5 remain unchanged. New claims 6-9 have been added. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by this Amendment.

In Section No. 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being obvious in view of claims 1 and 6 of United States Patent No. U.S. 6,318,485 to Osuga et al. (the Osuga patent) in view of the teaching of Japanese Patent No. JP 58-20569 to Iguchi (the Iguchi patent). The Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection and do not believe that the subject invention